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Sent: Saturday, February 19, 2022 7:45 PM
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Subject: Strategic Update - 2022 02 19

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-19 at 1900 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

No incidents to report.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022

On February 14, 2022, the federal government invoked the *Emergencies Act* to provide additional powers to handle ongoing blockades and protests against pandemic restrictions. PM Trudeau said the measures will be geographically targeted and time limited. A cabinet declaration of emergency is in effect immediately and must be presented to Parliament within seven days. A vote on a motion to support the act's invocation is expected early next week; the Senate will then proceed to debate and vote on it as well. If either the Commons or the Senate votes against the motion, the emergency declaration will be revoked.

Ottawa Demonstrations

Police Reporting

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS), with the assistance of the OPP, RCMP and municipal police services from across the country continued enforcement action today. Arrests and the removal of vehicles are ongoing. OPS advised that 170 total arrests had been made as of 1600 today. Due to officer safety concerns, some vehicles are entered using force prior to being towed. The removal of vehicles was delayed at times as tow drivers were being harassed by protesters. Police issued public messaging that there will be no release of towed trucks for 7 days. Arrested and released individuals had been attending the towing location to retrieve vehicles contrary to instructions; officers were dispatched to location to address the matter.

Police reporting notes that operations to clear and secure areas occupied by protestors encountered mixed responses, with a large number of protestors actively refusing to vacate areas. OPS have indicated that several criminal investigations have been initiated following the seizure of firearms during operations.

OPP reporting notes an incident during Mounted Unit operations in Ottawa yesterday that was widely circulated on social media. A female demonstrator was at the front line while the Mounted Unit passed by and she was knocked down and possibly struck by a horse. The female has been identified as a member of Mohawks of Bay of Quinte. The female received a medical assessment and reported suffering a broken collarbone; the female indicated she is staying with friends and is speaking with convoy lawyers. OPP PLT is engaged.

One protestor was arrested after they launched a gas canister, and subsequently several gas canisters were launched by other protestors.

Police observed a large number of families with young children amongst the protestors refusing to leave and have implemented a plan to ensure their safety. Children's Aid Society of Ottawa has issued messaging to the public urging families remaining in or near the protest zone to leave immediately, noting the presence of children and youth within or near the zone is highly concerning.

Police reporting also indicates that marked water bottles with unknown contents were being distributed amongst protestors who did not appear to be drinking from them, which may present an officer safety threat.

La Sûreté du Québec (SQ) advised at 1245hrs that protests were intensifying in Quebec and made a request to close the Chaudiere Bridge. SQ managed the closure. OPS has since reported (1730 hours) that the bridge is now open in both directions.

OPP reporting indicates that attempts are being made to organize a bus to take people to Ottawa from Dunnville on February 20, 2022, departing Dunnville at 0600 hours and returning from Ottawa at 1700 hours. OPP continues to monitor for updates.

OPP reporting notes a group calling itself "Freedom Convoy 2022 Fort McMurray" arrived in Ontario from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on Thursday, February 17th, 2022. They are currently a small group of four vehicles consisting of a coach bus, motorhome and two pickup trucks planning to travel to Ottawa. OPP PLT spoke with the group, the latter indicating they have no intention to travel to Ottawa, rather they are a church group heading to Niagara Falls. Open source searches regarding the group determined that it is highly probable they attempted to mislead officers, and that they are in fact planning to travel to Ottawa to attend the protest.

Open Source Reporting

National news media continues to report extensively on the enforcement action today. Several live stream videos by protestors were posted, including by leadership figures who were eventually arrested. Social media call outs for protestors to mobilize to Ottawa continue, as well as callouts to attend different potential blockade sites elsewhere in the province. Known events are referenced in their relevant jurisdictions below.

Social media messaging from a prominent anti-vaccination conspiracy theorist and so-called "Queen of Canada" indicates she plans to leave Ottawa for the east coast on February 20, 2022 unless something urgent happens to keep her in Ottawa.

The Freedom Convoy 2022 account with GiveSendGo is currently at \$9,655,377 USD. The Adopt A Trucker account has raised \$590,463 USD. Open source notes a new fundraising campaign called BIG RIG ADOPTION. The account appears to have been established on February 11, 2022 and the

amount raised is almost \$111,000. The account appears to be based in the US, and does not note whether the donations are recorded in CAD or USD.

Media reporting indicates that the Ontario Superior Court has issued an injunction to freeze funds raised in support of the blockade in more than 120 crypto addresses. The injunction is related to a lawsuit against blockade organizers by Ottawa residents.

Toronto Demonstrations

Police Reporting

Toronto Police Service (TPS) has closed University Avenue between Dundas and College. TPS continues to have Queen's Park Circle (between College St. and Bloor St.), Grosvenor St. (between Queen's Park Circle and Bay St.) and Wellesley St W. (between Bay St. and the entrance to the U of T campus) closed to prevent possible protest vehicles from attending the area.

Approximately 300 – 500 pedestrian protestors were observed walking in the Queen's Park Circle area today. No incidents were reported.

Open Source

TPS reports a possible protest in solidarity with Ottawa residents scheduled for February 20, 2022 at Toronto City Hall.

TPS reports that a rally in opposition of the freedom movement convoys and blockades is planned for Queens Park on February 21, 2022. It does not currently appear to be garnering significant interest online.

"Convoy for Freedom Toronto 2022" organizers live-streamed the above pedestrian protestors and discussed how they are still hoping to figure out a way to get trucks into the downtown, but that police have it locked down really well. The organizers called for more people to come to assist.

Ports of Entry - Windsor

Police Reporting

Ambassador Bridge is fully open. Canada-bound and US-bound traffic is flowing freely.

There was no activity reported at the Ambassador Bridge overnight. Approximately 100 people attended a demonstration in the area today. Protestors dispersed and no issues were reported.

The City of Windsor received an extension on the injunction prohibiting anyone from blocking access to the Ambassador Bridge. The previous order was to expire February 21, 2022.

Ports of Entry – Niagara / Peace Bridge

Police Reporting

The QEW is open. Police initiated a brief closure of QEW and Gilmore on the morning of February 19, 2022 (today).

Units were placed in position to stop a convoy of 6 vehicles being tracked on the QEW before they could arrive at the Peace Bridge this morning. 7 vehicles were stopped. Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) advised some of the convoy turned off the highway and took back roads.

75 vehicles gathered at a Husky service station; the convoy left onto NRPS regional roads travelling to Grimsby. The convoy then dispersed with no issues.

A possible slow roll may be scheduled on February 20, 2022.

A Wellington convoy scheduled today was cancelled due to weather conditions.

Ports of Entry – Sarnia

Police Reporting

OPP reporting indicates that traffic is moving normally at the Blue Water Bridge.

Highway 402 was closed in both directions between Colonel Talbot and Kerwood due to weather.

Additional staging has been established in Warwick, close to Hwy 402, in order to more effectively respond to any attempt at disrupting Blue Water critical infrastructure and / or associated Highway 402 convoys.

Ports of Entry – Nipigon

Police Reporting

OPP reporting has identified a potential blockade at the Nipigon River Bridge scheduled for February 26, 2022.

Other Activity

Police Reporting

OPP reporting indicates that a group of people have travelled to possibly block the border at Pigeon River, and appear to be camping on site. Their intention is unclear.

Convoys transpired across the province today, including in Temiskaming, North Bay, Hearst, Elliott Lake, Warwick, Haldimand-Norfolk, Thunder Bay and Espanola. No issues were reported.

Open Source Reporting

Social media information indicates that farmers from the Thunder Bay area intend to block bridges and border crossings with 1000 tractors. The message also claims that they are going to a border crossing with 5,000 vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles. The border point is not named: it is possible that Pigeon River is the destination.

Other local convoy actions are anticipated in other jurisdictions across the province, please see the updated event schedule below for additional information.

ASSESSMENT

The situation in Ottawa is tense and volatile. Enforcement action currently underway has and will likely continue to lead to incidents of physical conflict between protestors and police. The repeated narrative of peaceful protest and refusing to react to provocation means that some protestors will likely continue to engage in passive resistance as enforcement action continues. Some protestors appear to believe that any police action against them is illegal and, for this reason, they have the right to defend themselves and each other with physical force, if necessary.

The enforcement against protestors at the Ottawa blockade is unlikely to deter future protests supported or organized by the same individuals. Some participants and supporters of the Ottawa blockade may be looking to regroup to continue or replicate the protest elsewhere. At least one has indicated that they will plan for future events. Potential targets include police personnel and buildings, as well as elected officials, particularly those who represent the federal Liberal Party or who support the invocation of the *Emergencies Act*. Public officials at the provincial and municipal levels may also be at risk in the short term due to the declaration of the state of emergency by the Ontario government and protest-related injunctions obtained in Ottawa and Windsor. Individuals and businesses who have publicly voiced opposition to the blockade and or related protests may also be targeted by freedom movement supporters. Support from elected officials and religious leaders, as well as online disinformation, will continue to fuel, validate, and reinforce ideologies and conspiracy theories that appear to underpin some of the protestors' grievances and motives.

Counter-protests against the freedom movement protestors are also likely to occur in the immediate and short term.

At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest and Operation BearHug 2.0 activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 20, 2022

Toronto

Community Solidarity TO – non confrontational rally and march

Dunville

Support for Ottawa Freedom Convoy

Bus trip from Dunville to Ottawa with return to Dunville

February 21-25

Freedom Week

Organizer associated to the Ottawa truck convoy are encouraging individuals to participate in a week of civil disobedience

February 21, 2022

Detroit, Michigan

Potential Protest at Canadian Embassy in Detroit, Michigan

Saturday February 26, 2022

Nipigon Bridge

Protest was scheduled for 13 February has been rescheduled for February 26, 2022

U/K Date

Thunder Bay

Canada Unity – Operation Bearhug Canada

Strategic Border crossing disruptions. Plans unconfirmed.

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